



READY SET GO: Prime Minister Theresa May gives her support. Ref:127358-45



STEALTH: Teams completed as many lengths as they could in 55 minutes. Ref:127355-6



**Photos by
Ian Longthorne**

TEAM WORK: Swimmers from Furze Platt Schools Association gave it their all. Ref:127355-46

Swimmers make

Maidenhead: About £30,000

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SWIMMERS of all ages and abilities dived in to the 32nd annual Lions Club of Maidenhead Swimarathon on Saturday.

About 200 miles was covered by nearly 800 participants at the Magnet Leisure Centre on Saturday, and the total raised is expected to hit £30,000.

This year's event saw 98

teams, including 16 schools, take part in the swimming challenge, which involves taking turns to swim lengths of the pool for 55 minutes per team.

Mayor of Windsor and Maidenhead Cllr Sayonara Luxton came along to support the Royal Borough team, which was raising money for the Mayor's Benevolent Fund, and officially started the event for the 10am teams.

Swimmers were also



BIG GRIN: A young swimmer from the Lowbrook Team. Ref:127355-55



Ref:127355-34



JUMP IN: The swimming took place all day at the Magnet. Ref:127355-1



MAKING A SPLASH: Swimmers of all ages took part. Ref:127355-27

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SPECIAL GUEST: Theresa May took time to pose for pictures and chat to swimmers. Ref:127358-39



FRIENDLY FUN: Teams from a range of organisations took part. Ref:127355-21



Ref:127355-7



SNAP: Swimmers posed for pictures with the Prime Minister. Ref:127358-37

a splash for cash

is expected to have been raises at the 32nd Swimarathon

⌚ SPEED READ: It is expected this year's Swimarathon, organised by the Lions Club of Maidenhead, will raise about £30,000 for local charities. Hundreds of swimmers taking part in the 32nd annual event were cheered on by the Mayor and the Prime Minister.

surprised by a visit from Prime Minister Theresa May, who has attended the event nearly every year since she became Maidenhead's MP in 1997. She started the noon slot after taking selfies with and speaking to swimmers waiting for their turn.

Brenda Butler, who was Swimarathon leader for the second year, said: "People loved it, they loved seeing her. "She went round to talk to the swimmers and posed for pictures." Before leaving, the Prime Minister picked five teams from a hat to

be awarded an extra £200 for their nominated charity. The chosen teams were All Saints CE Junior School; Maidenhead Stroke Club; Windsor and Maidenhead Starfish Swimming Club; St Piran's School; and Cox Green Townswomen's Guild, which has taken part in the Swimarathon for 20 years. Each team's nominated charity will receive 50 per cent of sponsorship collected, with the other

half going to the Lions Club's charitable trust for projects throughout the year. This year's nominated organisations include the Alexander Devine Children's Hospice Service, Dorney Youth Club, Windsor Lions and Myeloma UK. Brenda said: "There have been a few new teams and a lot of older ones returning. "It has been brilliant." ■ Turn the page for more photos from the event...



THUMBS UP: Teams were raising money for chosen charities. Ref:127355-50



SMILEY SWIMMERS: The Furze Platt Schools Association team. Ref:127355-15



HEAD FIRST: Andrew Burdett takes the plunge. Ref:127355-4



Ref:127358-10



Ref:127355-39



HAVING A NATTER: The PM talks to some of the young participants. Ref:127358-34



TRUE BLUE: PM Theresa May sports a different type of shoe. Ref:127358-26



POOL PALS: More than 800 swimmers took part. Ref:127355-57



Ref:127355-41



FUNDRAISER: Mayor Cllr Sayonara Luxton with Team RBWM, swimming for the Mayor's Benevolent Fund Ref:127355-18



MAKING A SPLASH: Burchetts Green Infants Team. Ref:127355-60



Ref:127355-25

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SWITCH: Team members took it in turns to swim lengths. Ref:124530-13



GET, SET, GO: Theresa May sets one swimmer on his way. Ref:124530-13



Ref:127355-37



Ref:127355-52